

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 113. (original) A ferrule comprising:

a body having a two dimensional array of fiber holes, each of the fiber holes,

a) passing through the body,

b) extending over a length,

i) the length being approximately less than 3000 microns but

ii) greater than a minimum length sufficient to support optical fibers

inserted into the fiber holes, and

c) having a narrowest dimension about a size equal to and capable of accepting an optical fiber inserted through each hole.

Claim 114. (currently amended) The ferrule of claim 113 wherein the length of each fiber hole is between about 1000 microns and the minimum ~~thickness~~ length.

Claim 115. (currently amended) The ferrule of claim 113 wherein the length of each fiber hole is between about 500 microns and the minimum ~~thickness~~ length.

Claim 116. (currently amended) The ferrule of claim 113 wherein the length of each fiber hole is between about 150 microns and the minimum ~~thickness~~ length.

Claim 117. (original) The ferrule of claim 113 wherein the array of fiber holes is arranged in a rectangular array.

Claim 118. (original) The ferrule of claim 113 wherein the array of fiber holes comprises multiple rows of at least of 12 holes per row.

Claim 119. (original) The ferrule of claim 113 wherein the array of fiber holes comprises rows of at least a multiple of 6 holes per row.

Claim 120. (original) The ferrule of claim 113 wherein the fiber holes are substantially cylindrical along their length.

Claim 121. (original) The ferrule of claim 113 wherein the fiber holes are tapered along their entire length.

Claim 122. (original) The ferrule of claim 113 wherein the fiber holes are tapered along a part of their length.

Claim 123. (original) The ferrule of claim 113 wherein the narrowest dimension of a fiber hole is slightly larger than a cross sectional area of a single mode optical fiber.

Claim 124 (currently amended) The ferrule of claim 113 wherein the fiber holes are on a pitch of about 250 microns.

Claim 125. (original) The ferrule of claim 113 wherein the body has a face and an inner surface, and the fiber holes pass through the body from the face to the inner surface.

Claim 126. (original) The ferrule of claim 125 wherein the face and the inner surface are substantially parallel to each other.

Claim 127. (original) The ferrule of claim 125 wherein the inner surface is at an angle relative to the face.

Claim 128. (original) The ferrule of claim 125 wherein at least one of the face or the inner surface are curved.

Claim 129. (currently amended) The ferrule of claim 125 wherein the cross-sectional shape of a fiber hole at the face of the ferrule is a non-circular shape.

Claim 130. (original) A method of manufacturing a ferrule body comprising:
fabricating a body having

- a) a front side defining a face of the ferrule,
- b) a rear side defining an inner surface of the ferrule, and
- c) a two dimensional array of fiber holes passing through the body, the fiber holes,

- i) extending over a length from the face to the inner surface, the length being less than 3000 microns but greater than a minimum length sufficient to support optical fibers inserted into the fiber holes, and
- ii) having a narrowest dimension about a size equal to and capable of accepting an optical fiber inserted through each hole.

Claim 131. (original) The method of claim 130 wherein the body is fabricated by molding.

Claim 132. (original) The method of claim 130 wherein the body is fabricated by machining.